

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2002

The Honorable Henry Hyde
Chairman, International Relations Committee
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
INSIDE MAIL

Dear Chairman Hyde:

We respectfully ask for your assistance in ensuring that H. Con. Res. 317, the Canadian Pseudoephedrine Act, moves successfully through the legislative process. This is one of the Meth Caucus' highest legislative priorities this Congress.

Methamphetamine use continues to be a chronic problem in the United States. This product, better known as "meth", is produced by a very intricate cooking process that uses a number of chemicals like red phosphorus, acetone and pseudoephedrine. All of the chemicals that are used in the cooking process are easily obtained over-the-counter. While most of the chemicals in the cooking process can be substituted with similar products, pseudoephedrine is the one chemical that is required to make meth. Since pseudoephedrine is a normal substance found in cold medicine, it is easy to obtain.

Over the last couple of years, the federal government working in cooperation with narcotics agents and the private sector have tightened the control of pseudoephedrine in the United States. Today, pseudoephedrine can only be purchased in small quantity bottles or blister packs. Placing these controls on pseudoephedrine temporarily reduced the meth problem, but meth producers found a new supplier of pseudoephedrine - Canada.

Just recently, federal drug agents broke up a major international drug ring with roots in California, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota. The bust resulted in more than 300 arrests, the seizure of more than 30 tons of Canadian pseudoephedrine, 181 pounds of meth and \$16 million in cash, and the closure of nine meth super-labs. The criminal organization used tractor-trailers to haul pseudoephedrine pills from Canada to the United States. Once in the U.S., the pseudoephedrine was shipped to clandestine labs in California.


Between 1994 and 2000, reports show that pseudoephedrine powder imports to Canadian firms from India and China (or brokered through German firms) have increased by 817 percent. This increase in pseudoephedrine powder imports directly correlates with the significant increase in the production of pseudoephedrine tablets by Canadian companies, far more than the nation itself can absorb through legitimate use. While increased imports and increased production by Canadian companies is legal, a lot of their product is making its way to the United States by way of illegal trafficking. Unfortunately, it is now a common occurrence to find 23,000 pill-count bottles of Canadian pseudoephedrine tablets at meth labs

in the United States. The widespread presence of Canadian pseudoephedrine containers at labs and dumpsites in California demonstrates the strength of the demand and the inherent difficulties in stemming the flow from neighboring Canada.

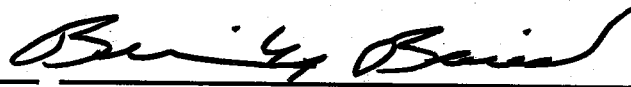
Currently, Canada lacks a comprehensive legislative framework for addressing the pseudoephedrine trafficking problem, therefore, cooperation is needed from the Canadian Government. Without cooperation from Canadian authorities, the illicit diversion of pseudoephedrine tablets will continue unabated and the pills will continue to find their way to ready meth-producing markets in the United States. Congressman George Radanovich recently met with Health Canada officials in Ottawa and they indicated that regulations will be in place by the end of they year. This is good news, however we have heard this promise before. Continued delay of this process only exacerbates the problem in the United States. The longer we wait, the more Canadian pseudoephedrine converted into meth finds its way into our community. Therefore, we have introduced H. Con. Res. 317 which calls on President Bush to open a dialogue with the Canadian Government to address this problem.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide in moving H. Con. Res. 317 through your committee. We look forward to working with you in the future.

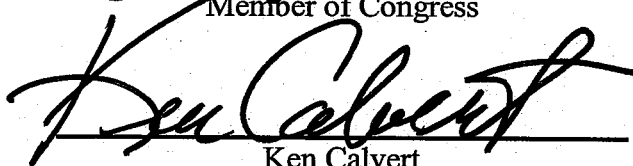
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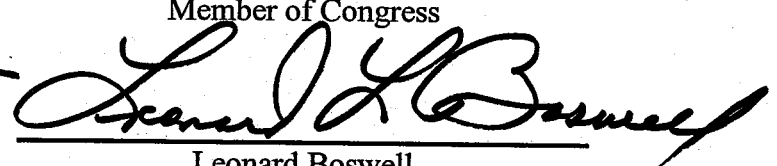
George Radanovich
Member of Congress



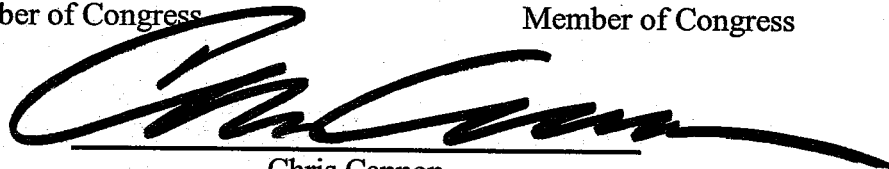
Brian Baird
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress



Chris Cannon
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2002

The Honorable Tom Lantos
Ranking Member, International Relations Committee
B-360 Rayburn House Office Building
INSIDE MAIL

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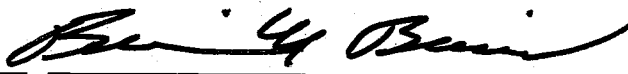
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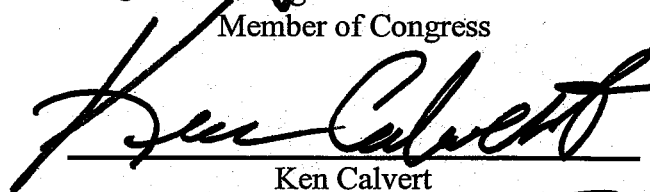
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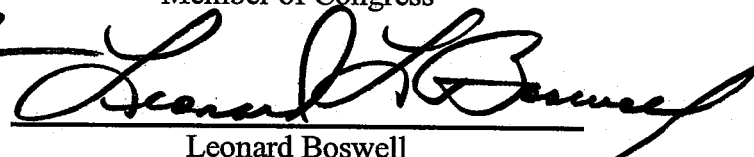
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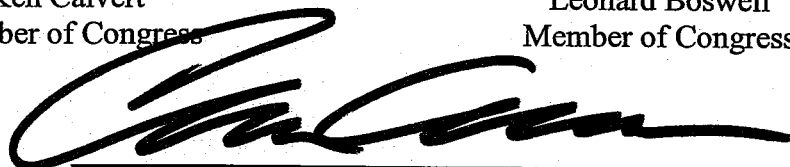
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